

IN THE TITLE

Substitute the title as

“RETIRING INSTRUCTIONS THAT MEET THE EARLY-RETIREMENT CRITERIA  
TO IMPROVE COMPUTER OPERATION THROUGHPUT

**RECEIVED**

APR 28 2004

Technology Center 2100

IN THE CLAIM

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for retiring instructions processed through various  
2 processing stages including an instruction queue, comprising the steps of:  
3 after processing the instructions until the instruction queue is full;  
4 performing the following steps  
5 stopping processing the instructions in the various processing  
6 stages; and  
7 for each instruction in the instruction queue, if the instruction meets  
8 the criteria for early retirement, then  
9 terminating the instruction; and  
10 updating a system processing the instruction to  
11 reflect that the instruction has been  
12 terminated;  
13 wherein the criteria for early retirement is met when at least one of the  
14 following conditions is met: continued processing of the instruction  
15 does not change the architectural state of the system processing the  
16 instruction; continued processing of the instruction has no effect on  
17 the behavior of a program running the instruction; the instruction  
18 has completed its function without completing its full pipeline.